(vi) Acceptance of photocopied passport application forms in lieu of printed forms, as may be convenient to the applicant.

(vii) Setting up of Passport Advisory Committees.

As a result of these measures, the backlog has been reduced and the issue of passports has been speeded up.

US quota for export of woollen items

*87. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether U.S. had imposed a limited quota on export of woollen items—men's shirts and women's blouses to U.S.A.;

(b) whether the matter was taken up with a Committee on World Trade Organisation in Geneva;

(c) whether WTO Committee has given its decision; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and whether the quota limit has been lifted?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R. L. JALAPPA): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The U.S. had imposed quota restrictioins on the exports of our woollen woven shirts ad blouses to the U.S.A. for a period of 3 years with effect from April 18, 1995.

The imposition of quota restrictions had been taken up with the textiles Monitoring Body (TMB) of the World Trade Organisation (WTO). As the findings of the TMB were not in our favour, Government had taken up the issue in the Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) of the WTO. The DSB had thereupon set up a panel to make such findings on the matter as would assist the DSB in making appropriate recommendations or in giving appropriate rulings. The panel is likely to give its findings shortly.

Construction of bulk handling terminal at New Mangalore Port

*88. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH:
SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether tenders for construction of a bulk handling terminal at New Mangalore Port have been invited; if so, by when the work is likely to start; and

(b) if not, the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) and (b) New Mangalore Port has invited global bids for construction & Licence out the operation, management and maintenance of multi user Bulk Handling Terminal with one/two jetties for handling coal or other bulk cargo for a period of 30 years on Build, Operate & Transfer basis. Last date for submission of bids is 21.1.1997. Work is expected to start on the finalisation of bids.

Funds to help injured army personci

*89. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is shortage of funds to help injured armymen;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken to look after the injured armymen with full care especially in Paraplegic Rehabilitation Centre, Kirkee?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV): (a) to (c) The injured Army men are treated in various Military Hospitals and in the Paraplegic Rehabilitation Centre, Kirkee. The Military Hospitals are given